

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

4 January 1979

Mr. Edwin A. Thompson
Director, Records Declassification Division
National Archives and Records Service
Eighth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20408

Dear Alan,

The Classification Review Group has completed its review of the purport books and index cards in the State Department Central Decimal File (RG-59) relating to OSS operations 1940-1944. The review was conducted using the guidelines transmitted to you on 20 December 1978. The guidelines are designed to place as much information in the public domain as possible while protecting information covering intelligence sources and methods having continuing relevance. The application of these guidelines has resulted in less information requiring protection than initially envisaged. For example, most documents concerning OSS personnel under official cover, for which classification was previously retained, may now be declassified. Such documents are those which give the names of OSS personnel; reveal or imply OSS affiliation; identify the official cover organization, cover designation or title or merely provide other routine administrative arrangements. Documents which reflect operational activity of personnel under official cover may be considered for declassification on a case-by-case basis.

Results of the CRG review by category are as follows:

A. 123 Purport Books 1940-1944

The identities of OSS staff personnel revealed in these books and related cards do not require protection and, consequently, there is no requirement for sanitizing microfilm of these records as previously discussed.

B. 103.918 and 103.91802 Purport Books and Cards

These records include approximately 250 references to OSS personnel who served under non-official cover. Arrangements for non-official cover and personnel serving thereunder require continued protection. To achieve this objective it is recommended that these books (about 450 pages) and cards (about one trayful), and microfilm of both be protected permanently. Although some non-sensitive material is included in this material, there has been little demand for these

records and the effort and expense to sanitize them would be considerable. Mandatory review and FOIA requests for these records could, of course, be referred to CIA on a case-by-case basis for review.

C. Central Name Card File and Various Source Card Files

It is proposed to withdraw 44 cards on 20 persons from the central name card file. In addition, 209 cards from various source card files would be withdrawn as follows:

From COI - 13 cards

To COI - 2 cards

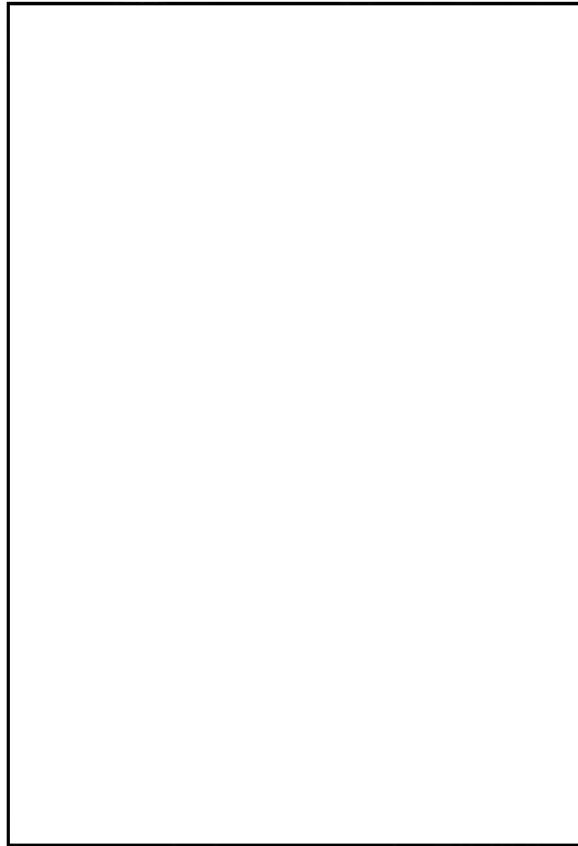
From OSS - 19 cards

To OSS - 8 cards



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All but two of the above cards deal with OSS personnel who served abroad under non-official cover. It is requested, therefore, that dummy or cross-reference cards which are to be substituted for withdrawn cards not reflect CIA interest and that the original cards be held in the office of the NARS custodial official concerned. A xerox copy of all cards withheld would be made for our respective files.

If you concur with the proposals set forth above, CRG personnel will complete the withdrawal of cards requiring continued protection and we will have finally put this problem to rest.



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Chief,
Classification Review Group
Information Systems Analysis Staff
Directorate of Administration

Dear Mr. Thompson,

The special CIA task force has completed its review of the potentially compromising material in all of the relevant purport books and index cards in the State Department Central Decimal File (RG-59) for 1940-1944. Application of recently formalized criteria for the protection of OSS staff personnel, has resulted in a modest alteration of a few of the tentative positions we discussed with you and Dr. Gustafson last year.

123 Purport Books - We no longer propose to protect any OSS staff personnel ~~XXXX~~ so identified in these books and related cards. Consequently there is no requirement for any sanitization of the microfilm of these records.

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103.918 and 103.91802 Purport Books and Cards - We request that these books (about 450 pages) and cards (about one trayful) be protected permanently. We recognize that there is material in these holdings which is non-sensitive and of possible interest to researchers. However, the effort required to sanitize these records seems wasteful in light of the demand for them, which, in Mrs. Dowling's memory, has been minimal to nil in recent years. We request that any FOIA request for these records be coordinated with CIA. While we might view favorably such a request from a serious researcher, we prefer that the records not be readily available to a casual browser. Commitantly, we request ~~that~~ that the microfilm of these records be put on permanent restriction.

Central Name Card File and Various Source Card Files - We propose to withdraw 44 cards on 20 persons from the central name card file. We propose to withdraw 209 cards from various source card files. File titles and the number of cards from each file is listed below:

From COI - 13 cards

To COI - 2 cards

From OSS - 19 cards

To OSS - 8 cards

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Approved For Release 2002/08/21 : CIA-RDP93B01194R001300070010-0

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We request that dummy or cross-reference cards which are to be substituted for withdrawn cards not reflect CIA as the requesting agency. For your information, all but two of these cards deal with OSS personnel who served abroad under ^{official} official cover.

Upon notification from you of completion in the procedures described herewith we will complete the withdrawal of cards, most of which has already been accomplished. It should take no more than a few days. Mrs. Dowling of Dr. Gustafson's office will retain the originals of the cards withdrawn. A Xerox copy of these cards will be hand-carried to your office as soon as we are finished.

Further Declassification of Documents - Existing documents referred to ^{by} purport sheets ^{and} other pertinent cards in RG-59 have been reviewed by CIA for declassification. All documents referred to ^{by} the cards which are to ^{be} withdrawn should retain classification of Confidential. Because of liberalization of criteria for the protection of OSS personnel serving under official cover, certain documents earlier retained as classified may now be declassification^{ed}. Documents describing merely the ^{name} name, fact or implication (103.918/103.91802 series) of OSS affiliation, the official cover organization, cover designation or title, and other routine administrative^{ve} arrangements may be declassified. Documents which contain information beyond these categories - for instance, a reflection of the person's operational activity - should be considered for declassification on a case-by-case basis.

I wish to thank you again for your assistance in this matter and I especially wish to thank Dr. Gustafson and members of his staff for their extremely generous and patient cooperation.

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